

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-06 RSC-01

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7452

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5046

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, SF

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA IN UNITED NATIONS

REF: USUN 4984

1. AFTERMATH OF GA PLENARY DEBATE NOV. 12, WHICH RESULTED IN SUSPENSION OF SA DELEGATION FROM PARTICIPATING IN REMAINDER OF 29TH SESSION, HAS AROUSED SERIOUS CONCERN AMONG MANY WESTERN REPS RE FUTURE STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH ILLEGAL EFFORTS TO IGNORE CHARTER PROVISIONS.

2. BEFORE DEBATE, SOUTH AFRICAN PERMREP BOTHA HAD SOUGHT ADVICE OF US AND UK PERMREPS AS TO WHETHER HIS PARTICIPATION IN PROCEEDINGS WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO HIS OWN CAUSE. WE INFORMED HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FOR HIM TO CONSIDER ATTENDING BUT, AS REPORTED IN USUN 4919, THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD HAVE TO WEIGH ARGUMENT CONCERNING THIS AND EXERCISE OF OTHER RIGHTS IN ASSEMBLY. AFTER LEARNING FROM BOUTEFLIKA THAT HE WOULD NOT BE REOCGNIZED IF HE TRIED
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TO SEPAK, BOTHA DECIDED SA SEATS SHOULD BE EMPTY DURING THE DEBATE. A FEW HOURS AFTER THE SUSPENSION, BOTHA WAS

RECALLED TO PRETORIA. SOUTH AFRICAN DEPUTY PERMREP HAS EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO US FOR OUR POSITION, AND INFORMS US THAT NEXT STATEMENT ON THE QUESTION WILL COME FROM SAG IN PRETORIA.

3. AMB. SCALI MET WITH UK, FRENCH AND FRG PERMREPS PRIOR TO YESTERDAY'S SESSION, AND KEPT IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THEM CONCERNING STRATEGY. THIS RESULTED IN SMOOTH AND MUTUALLY HELPFUL COOPERATION.

4. DURING DEBATE, TANZANIAN PERMREP SALIM WAS RELAXED, AND BANTERED WITH AMB. SCALI ACROSS THE AISLE WHICH SEPARATES OUR TWO DELEGATIONS. FOLLOWING DEBATE, NIGIERAN PERMREP OGBU WAS CAREFUL TO TELL MISOFF THAT HIS ANGRY RESPONSE ON PODIUM WAS OCCASIONED NOT BY US POSITION, BUT BY UK PERMREP RICHARD'S "POMPOUS TALKING DOWN TO AFRICANS." FYI: RICHARD'S VIGOROUS BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY STYLE SOMETIMES IRRITATES ANGOLOPHONE AFRICANS, AND THIS WAS A CASE IN POINT. END FYI.

5. COMMENT: US COMMENTS AND ACTION ON ILLEGALITY OF THE RULING WAS FULLY EXPECTED BY THOSE PARTICIPATING AND VIEWED AS DIGNIFIED EXPOSITION OF SERIOUS CONCERN OVER LEGAL IMPLICATIONS. IT IS UNLIKELY TO CREATE NEW PROBLEMS FOR US ON OTHER ISSUES. IT IS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR VIEW THAT ON SHORT NOTICE, WITHOUT SYSTEMATIC LOBBYING AGAINST AFRICAN STEAMROLLER, 22 NEGATIVE VOTES AND 19 ABSTENTIONS (MOST OF THEM IMPLICITLY "NEGATIVE") WERE TALLIED. AS OUR OWN STATEMENT OF CHALLENGE TO THE SUSPENSION RULING (USUN 4981) MADE CLEAR TO ALL WILLING TO LISTEN, THE ACTION VIOLATED CLEAR PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER. PRIVATELY, EVEN ALGERIANS ADMITTED THAT POLITICAL NECESSITY (I.E., ARAB NEED FOR UNQUESTIONING AFRICAN SUPPORT ON PLO) HAD DETERMINED BOUTEFLIKA'S COURSE AND ITS TIMING. VOTE REFLECTS EXTENT TO WHICH EUROPEANS, SOME LATINS AND EVEN JAPAN HAVE ALMOST ABRUPTLY COME TO REALIZE THAT CONTINUED CATERING TO NON-ALIGNED POLITICAL PRESSURES AT EXPENSE OF CHARTER AND RULES OF PROCEDURE COULD THREATEN INTEGRITY OF UN SYSTEM.

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6. SINCE GA VOTE WE HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FROM OTHERS WHO VOTED NO OR ABSTAINED OVER IMPLICATIONS OF THIS ILLEGAL ACTION. SOME BELIEVE THAT, WHILE GA ACTION IRREVOCABLE, THERE SHOULD BE SOME MORE VISIBLE AND EMPHATIC RESPONSE TO DRAMATIZE ISSUE AND, IT IS HOPED, LEAD OTHERS TO GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO PRECEDENT THEY MAY HAVE SET.
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